

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 5-11, 13-17, 21-27, 29-34, 37-44 and 46-50. In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 12, 18-20, 28, 35, 36 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In connection with the rejection, the Examiner stated that it is not clear in claims 2, 3, 12, 18, 19, 28, 35, 36 and 45 which “thermoset resin” cross-links the water soluble or water dispersible polymer. Also, the Examiner stated that claims 1, 17 and 34 do not explicitly recite that the polymer is cross-linked by the resin(s).

In order to overcome the Examiner’s rejections, claims 1, 17 and 34 have been amended to call for “a particulate curable solid thermoset resin and a water soluble or dispersable thermoset resin that cross-link the polymer.” Thus, claims 1, 17 and 34 as amended make it clear that the cross-linking is affected by both resins.

As concerns rejected claims 2, 3, 12, 18, 19, 28, 35, 36 and 45, the word “resin” therein has been changed to “resins”. In addition, claims 4 and 20 have been amended by deleting the words “polysaccharide is” and substituting the words “polysaccharides are” therefor. In addition, claim 33 has been amended in the same manner as claims 1, 17 and 34.

It is respectfully submitted by the Applicants that the amendments to claims 2-4, 12, 18-20, 28, 33-35, 36 and 45 overcome the Examiner’s objections and that such claims should now be allowed.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed on July 8, 2004.

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P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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